



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

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Agenda Item 4(b)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

47th Session

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MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

UPDATE ON OECD WORK ON RESIDUE CHEMISTRY AND PESTICIDE MINOR USES RELEVANT TO CCPR WORK

A. Information document from OECD for the 47th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

A.1. Background

1. This document is provided to CCPR delegates for information. It gives an update of OECD activities in the area of pesticide residue chemistry and minor uses. With respect to the latter, this document is part of the information exchange process between Codex and OECD recommended previously to avoid duplication and overlap between international groups dealing with the issue of minor uses. OECD has an observer status within Codex.
2. The two OECD groups dealing with residue chemistry and minor uses are the Residue Chemistry Expert Group and the Expert Group on Minor Uses. An overview of recent activities within the two groups is given below, following a brief summary of OECD work on pesticides.

A.2. About the OECD work on Pesticides and Sustainable Pest Management

3. The Pesticide Programme was created in 1992 within the OECD's Environmental Health and Safety division to help OECD countries:
 - harmonise their pesticide review procedures,
 - share the work of evaluating pesticides, and
 - reduce risks associated with pesticide use.
4. The Pesticide Programme is directed by the Working Group on Pesticides (WGP), composed primarily of Delegates from OECD Member countries, but also including representatives from the European Commission and other international organisations (e.g. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization, EPPO), and experts from the pesticide industry and public interest organisations (NGOs).

A.3. OECD Residue Chemistry Expert Group

5. The Residue Chemistry Expert Group (RCEG) was established in 2003. Its objectives are to:
 - Harmonise the way residue testing is conducted and results are interpreted,
 - Develop methods to support international harmonisation of maximum residue limits (MRLs) (the OECD does not set MRLs).

6. Nine OECD Test Guidelines have been published, as follows: **TG 501** Metabolism in Crops; **TG 502** Metabolism in Rotational Crops; **TG 503** Metabolism in Livestock; **TG 504** Residues in Rotational Crops (Limited Field Studies); **TG 505** Residues in Livestock; **TG 506** Stability of Pesticide Residues in Stored Commodities; **TG 507** Nature of Pesticide Residues in processed Commodities - High Temperature-Hydrolysis; **TG 508** Magnitude of Pesticide Residues in Processed Commodities; **TG 509** Crop Field Trial.

7. Seven Guidance Documents are available: Definition of Residue; Overview of Residue Chemistry Studies; Magnitude of Pesticide Residues in Processed Commodities; Pesticide Residue Analytical Methods; Crop Field Trials; and Residues in Livestock.

8. The Guidance Document on Residues in Livestock was updated in 2013. The revision includes an updated OECD Table of Feedstuffs Derived from Field Crops (available in the Guidance Document on Overview of Residue Chemistry Studies). Specifically, this Guidance Document describes current differences in OECD countries in livestock feeding practices and diet composition and factors influencing the determination of dietary burden and dose selection, and provides guidance for interpreting results from OECD TG 505 studies.

9. The MRL Calculator, a tool for statistical calculation of MRLs was published in 2011. It is an Excel spreadsheet simple to use without requiring extensive statistical knowledge from the user.

10. All the documents mentioned above and the MRL calculator are available on the OECD public web site: <http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/pesticides-biocides/publicationsonpesticideresidues.htm>

11. The following outputs are in preparation: 1) Revision of the 2011 Guidance Document on Crop Field Trials (to deal with proportionality issues, clarify sampling procedures and take into account national/ Codex information on recent changes in crop groups): a first draft GD was circulated among OECD members for review in September 2014. 2) Development of a new Guidance Document for Rotational Crop Field Trials: a first draft GD will be available for review by OECD members by Mid-2015.

A.4. OECD Expert Group on Minor Uses

12. The Expert Group on Minor Uses (EGMU) was established in 2007. The current work plan of the OECD EGMU focuses on issues associated with cooperation, technical and policy activities with the aim of facilitating the development of data and registration of pesticides for minor uses. As with many OECD chemicals and pesticide projects, the EGMU works towards providing the infrastructure, guidance and tools for promoting the registration of pesticides for minor uses, including aspects of data requirements, data generation and opportunities for harmonization to make available data useful across countries. The OECD work focuses on developing tools for risk assessment and mechanisms to facilitate co-operation and work-sharing. For further information, see the OECD website:

<http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/pesticides-biocides/minoruses.htm>

13. Two Guidance Documents have been published: a Guidance Document on Defining Minor Uses of Pesticides and a Guidance Document on Regulatory Incentives for the Registration of Pesticide Minor Uses.

14. Two survey reports have been published: the Survey Results on Regulatory Incentives for the Registration of Pesticide Minor Uses and the Survey Results on Efficacy & Crop Safety Data Requirements and Guidelines for the Registration of Pesticide Minor Uses.

15. All OECD Minor Uses publications are available at:

<http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/pesticides-biocides/publicationsonminorusesofpesticides.htm>

16. Currently, three main activities are underway, as follows.

- **Project 1:** work towards developing a Guidance Document to address & solve minor uses:

responses to a 2013 survey to collect information on existing national and regional processes and known data exchanges are being analysed and a report of the survey will be made available by Mid-2015. A pilot data generation project (global residue/efficacy) is also being considered to be scheduled at a later stage after selection of an agreed commodity and pest/disease problem.

- **Project 2:** *Global Joint Reviews (GJRs) –enhancing minor uses from GJRs:*

Information on GJRs relevant for minor uses is being collated and further sources of information are being explored. The first aim of the work is to identify differences in uses (crops) approved in various countries through GJRs. Subsequent aims would involve identifying the reasons for these differences and activities or initiatives that could enhance the scope of minor uses approved amongst countries through GJRs.

- **Project 3:** *work towards developing a Guidance Document on the exchange and use of international efficacy & crop safety data for minor uses:*

A draft of the guidance document is being developed. While some OECD countries do not currently require efficacy data, it was confirmed as an important consideration amongst the EGMU participants. The first step of the project – collecting information and data relating to pesticides efficacy for minor uses crops – is completed.

17. The last EGMU meeting took place at OECD headquarters (Paris) on 11th October 2013. At this meeting the work plan for EGMU was updated to reflect progress in the ongoing projects outlined above, and to initiate related but new activities in the areas of identifying *priority* minor uses for data generation and data exchange and developing a process for assessing trial protocols for future minor use GJRs.